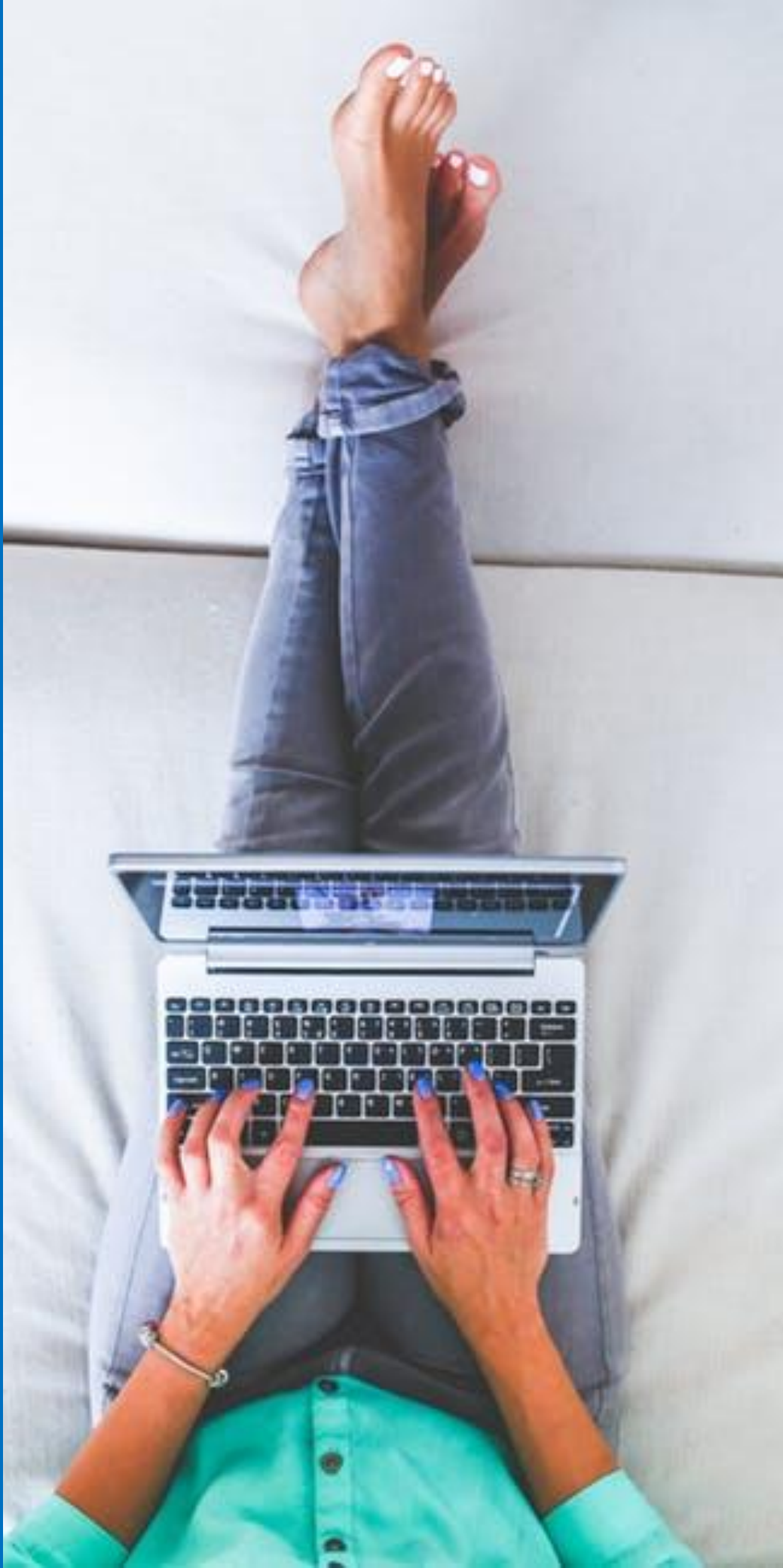


2.9 HANDOUT

AVOIDING PLAGIARISM



AVOIDING PLAGIARISM

Using materials and ideas from outside sources can be a powerful way to provide important details or to strengthen an argument. With the proper citations and copywriting techniques, you can avoid plagiarizing these sources and create rich, compelling copy.

- **Aggressively cite your sources**
 - There are many ways to cite - within text, using links, footnotes, and more
 - Citations can improve the reader's trust in your work - more sources = more support for your arguments
 - ex. According to this [_MLB Network tweet_](#), the Cleveland Indians have made “significant changes” to their management team.
- **Use quotes to identify others' work**
 - If you want to use someone else's words in your piece, use quotes
 - ex. Newsweek calls Nolan's new movie a “love letter to Hitchcock”.



AVOIDING PLAGIARISM

- Use proper paraphrasing to compliment your original work
 - Paraphrasing is plagiarism if you don't include original ideas or work of your own
 - It's okay to paraphrase someone else's idea if you make it clear what's your work and what's not
 - ex: If a governor complained about senators "ignoring the basic needs of its constituents and thinking only of themselves" you might paraphrase this as: The governor accused the senate of greed and "ignoring the basic needs" of its citizens, but with another vote on the way, it's unclear if his appeal will have any effect.

Avoid copying and pasting text during your research

- Note-taking and research gathering is essential, but take care to identify content from other sources
 - If you forget where text in your notes came from, you might assume you wrote it



AVOIDING PLAGIARISM



- Tip: Use tagging or obvious formatting to distinguish your copy from others
 - ex. Make text from other sources bright green or all italics or both

Use an online plagiarism checker before publishing

- If you're unsure about your material, run it through a checker to be sure
- <https://smallseotools.com/plagiarism-checker/>